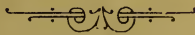


BRIDGNORTH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health



FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1950.

Bridgnorth Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the year ended 31st December, 1950.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRIDGNORTH RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ended
31st December, 1950.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

L. E. DICKSON, M.D.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

L. E. DICKSON, M.D. (Part time).

Sanitary Inspector:

G. S. N. INGHAM, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

SECTION "A".

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres,	...	...	...	...	101,040
Registrar General's estimate of the Resident population at mid-1950, including H.M. Forces,	...	...	...	...	16,580
Number of inhabited dwelling houses at the end of 1950, as per Rate Book,	...	...	...	...	3,591
Rateable Value, as at 1st April, 1950,	...	...	...	...	£57,799
Sum represented by a penny rate, as at 31st March, 1950,	...	...	...	...	£244/6/9

VITAL STATISTICS.

				Total	Males	Females
LIVE BIRTHS	....	....	....	210	109	101
Legitimate	....	....	....	200	105	95
Illegitimate	....	....	....	10	4	6
STILL BIRTHS	....	....	....	2	1	1
Legitimate	....	....	....	2	1	1
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
DEATHS	....	....	....	118	65	53
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population						12.6
After adjustment by comparability factor	....	....	....			17.6
RATE per total live and still births	....	....	....			9.04
DEATH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population						7.1
After adjustment by comparability factor	....	....	....			8.3
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	....	....	....			Nil

INFANT MORTALITY:

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	8	4	4
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS:

All infants per 1,000 live births	....	....	....	....	38.08
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	....	....	....	....	40.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	....	....	....	....	Nil

DEATHS FROM:

Measles	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
Malignant Growths	....	....	....	....	....	....	18
Cardiovascular Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	45
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	....	2

SECTION "B".

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS as in Section "A."

LABORATORY SERVICES are provided at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.

NURSING IN THE HOME is under the control of the **Local Health Authority**, which is the Salop County Council.

AMBULANCE SERVICES. There are two ambulances, and one car for sitting cases, stationed at Bridgnorth. These are available for the shorter journeys. Long distance journeys are arranged from County Headquarters, Shrewsbury 2626. Applications for the use of a car from the Voluntary Car Service should also be made to County Headquarters.

HOSPITALS. There are no hospitals in the area. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Wolverhampton Isolation Hospital, if beds are available, and to Monkmoor Isolation Hospital, at Shrewsbury.

For general diseases, there are available the Bridgnorth and South Shropshire Infirmary, the Wolverhampton Group of Hospitals and the Shrewsbury Group of Hospitals.

Regular sessions by consultants from the Wolverhampton Group of Hospitals are held at the Bridgnorth and South Shropshire Infirmary.

Cases of orthopaedic disease are treated at Park Hospital, Oswestry, or the Wolverhampton Royal Hospital. Shirlett Sanatorium and Prees Heath Sanatorium are the County Hospitals for Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

HOME HELP SERVICE. A branch of this service was opened in Bridgnorth on 21st November, 1949, to cover the Bridgnorth Borough and Rural Districts. The office hours of attendance are from 2.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., on Mondays and Fridays, at the Bridgnorth Welfare Centre.

Unfortunately the service has latterly been little used, and it is understood that the County Organiser of the W.V.S. has recommended to the County Authority that this branch should be closed as soon as possible.

Misunderstanding of the scope of this service, and of its cost to the user, probably accounts to some extent for its disuse.

SECTION "C".

WATER SUPPLIES.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME.

(1) **High Level Area.** There is little progress to report during the past year and the scheme is not much advanced since my report of last year.

(a) **ORETON & FARLOW.** Details of this setion of the High Level Area Scheme have been prepared and submitted to the Minister of Health. A meeting of the Joint Representatives of the Brīdgnorth and Ludlow Rural District Councils has been held to discuss the matter, and it was resolved to make temporary use of various springs to supply this area pending the construction of the main headworks.

(2) **Low Level Scheme.** Little progress has been made with this Scheme since my last report. Some of the information required by the Ministry has been collected, but much yet remains to be done.

(a) **NEEN SAVAGE.** An 8in. spur and a number of branch pipelines have been completed and were put into operation in July. With one or two exceptions, every property on the line of the new mains has taken a supply, and this appears to have met a long-felt need.

(b) **HIGHLEY & ALVELEY.** Detailed plans and drawings of this section of the scheme were submitted and approved during the year, and a starting date, September 1st, 1951, has been awarded by the Ministry of Health.

As soon as this section can be put into operation the Council will be relieved of the constant fear of a breakdown in the water supply to this Village, the largest in the Rural District.

(3) **Parish of Claverley.** There is little to report regarding this parish. No further extensions of the mains have been carried out on account of the high cost of the work.

It is very disturbing to know that there is still a large number of properties which are not yet taking a piped water supply where this is available. During the year it was resolved to lay mains in the Broughton area, and it is anticipated that a start will be made early next year.

(4) **Parish of Worfield.** During the year, new mains have been laid in the Parish of Worfield by the Wolverhampton Corporation, on behalf of the Council. The scheme was put into operation during the month of November. The Villages of Worfield and Ackleton and the Hamlet of Roughton now have piped water supplies. At the 31st December, 1950, some 63 domestic premises were connected to the mains.

(5) **Parish of Highley.** As usual, the yield of the springs at Londonderry Coppice fell considerably during the dry season, and auxilliary supplies were brought into operation. By so doing it was possible to maintain a reasonable supply to the village, although the level in the reservoir had fallen to the equivalent of one day's storage only when the rainy season commenced.

(6) **Parish of Stottesdon.** From the experience of the past year it would appear that the demand for water in this village has now outstripped both pumping and storage capacities. The elevated storage tank is not capable of holding more than the equivalent of 36 hours supply, and consequently the cost of production of the water is showing a marked increase, due to the frequency with which it is necessary to operate the pumping plant. The extra consumption is due to the number of farms requiring water for milk production, which was not foreseen when this scheme was originally prepared.

(7) **Parish of Alveley.** The work of relaying the village mains was completed during the year. A very great improvement has been effected, and the water service to this Village is much more satisfactory.

It is to be regretted, however, that so few householders have availed themselves of the opportunity to take piped supplies from the mains in preference to drawing water from public standpipes.

Statistics in respect of premises supplied with water from piped public supplies are detailed in the following table:—

		Direct	Premises By Stand- pipe only	Estimated Population Supplied	Increase since Dec., 1949	Per- centage of Parish
Alveley ....	....	39	88	457	—	45.60
Astley Abbots ....	....	15	—	54	3	10.00
Claverley ....	....	192	—	593	3	47.50
Highley ....	....	358	204	2360	3	95.10
Kinlet:						
(a) Button Oak...		24	2 }	151	3	30.00
(b) Meaton Lane		17	— }			
Morville ....	....	13	—	84	—	21.80
Neen Savage ....	....	14	—	50	14	15.30
Stottesdon ....	....	40	—	386	—	15.00
Tasley ....	....	38	—	83	1	79.00
Worfield ....	....	63	—	249	63	17.30

SECTION "D".

Further progress in the erection of new Council Houses has been made, but at a slower rate than hitherto. Only eighteen houses were completed and occupied during the year.

To date, a total of 110 new houses have been built, and a further 38 are in course of construction. Schemes are also in course of preparation for a further 72 houses during next year.

Details of Post-War Building are as follows:—

				Under Construction	Completed during year	Total Completions at December, 1950
Alveley	....	....	....	—	—	16
Claverley	....	....	....	—	12	26
Hilton	....	....	....	—	—	6
Highley	....	....	....	—	—	50
Kinlet	....	....	....	10	—	—
Morville	....	....	....	—	6	12
Neen Savage	....	....	....	10	—	—
Shipton	....	....	....	6	—	—
Tasley	....	....	....	6	—	—
Worfield	....	....	....	6	—	—
			Totals	<u>38</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>110</u>

Private building has not proceeded so rapidly as might have been expected, but a number of new houses have been authorised by licence during the year.

Details of Private Building are as under:—

				Under Construction	Completed during year	Total Completions at December, 1950
Alveley	....	....	....	1	—	5
Aston Eyre....	....	....	....	—	—	2
Burwarton	....	....	....	—	—	2
Chetton	....	....	....	—	1	4
Claverley	....	....	....	—	2	3
Eardington	....	....	....	—	—	2
Middleton Scriven	....	....	....	—	—	2
Romsley	....	....	....	—	—	3
Shipton	....	....	....	—	—	2
Stottesdon	....	....	....	—	—	2
Tasley	....	....	....	—	2	4
Worfield	....	....	....	—	3	3
				<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>34</u>

Of this total, twenty-six houses are occupied by workers engaged in agriculture and the remaining eight by other private persons.

No applications for Grants under the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946, have been received.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Conditions at the Wrens Nest Works, at Highley, have become so bad during the year that it has been decided to carry out various remedial works to put the plant into reasonable working condition. The filters have already been emptied and refilled with new media, and new distributing mechanism has been ordered.

Weirs have been installed to separate storm water, the rate of flow of which is very greatly in excess of the dry weather flow. Hitherto this has passed in its entirety through the works, and on occasions the quantity of storm water has been so great that the filter beds have been completely flooded. It is expected that conditions will be greatly improved when the alterations have been completed.

In the case of the other sewage disposal plants, general maintenance has been carried out to the extent which a very small Works Department will permit, but on the whole conditions cannot be said to be satisfactory.

It is clear that the Council will have to give further consideration to the provision of a sewage disposal scheme for the Parish of Claverley. With the advent of a piped water supply the quantity of sewage in the village has greatly increased, and drainage nuisances are continually being caused through lack of a proper means of disposal.

SCAVENGING.

A further scavenging vehicle has been purchased during the year, mainly for use at the R.A.F. Station, Bridgnorth. By making a revision of the routes along which the original vehicle collected together with the new vehicle, it has been possible to include the Parish of Highley. Previously refuse was collected by a contractor using a horse and cart, but this collection has now been reduced to a matter of four streets and a few houses on the route to the tip.

A new tip has been obtained at Aston, in the Parish of Claverley, where it is intended to centralise the disposal of refuse collected on the East side of the River Severn. Proper methods of controlled tipping will be used, and it is intended to employ a full-time tip Attendant for this purpose. It is expected that an appreciable saving may be effected by using this tip, and that by re-routing the vehicles the service may be extended to other parts of the Council's District.

COLLECTION OF NIGHT SOIL.

Whilst it still remains necessary to carry out this service in the Parish of Highley, nevertheless there is now some hope of being able to dispense with the system in the fairly near future. As soon as the new water supply is complete, the Council will then be in a position to require conversion from the conservancy to water carriage systems of sanitation.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water.

A grant-aided scheme is in force whereby samples of water collected in in the County area may be examined by the County Analyst at a fee of 3/- per sample (Bacteriological).

Bacteriological samples from public supplies are examined free of charge at the Public Health Laboratories, Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.

Sampling of public water supplies was carried out regularly during the year, and the following results were obtained:—

ALVELEY	All "satisfactory" samples.
HIGHLEY	One "unsatisfactory" sample. One "suspicious" sample. Three "highly satisfactory" samples.
MORVILLE	All "highly satisfactory" samples (chlorinated).
SHIPTON	All "highly satisfactory" samples.
COTON CAMP	All "satisfactory" samples.
NEEN SAVAGE	All "highly satisfactory" samples.
STOTTESDON	Three "suspicious" samples. Two "highly satisfactory" samples.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION.

The work of improving and causing the provision of satisfactory drainage and disposal to cottages and farms was continued during 1950. A further nine farms and 17 cottages had new drainage or improvements to existing drainage carried out.

HOUSING.

The report on the Rural Housing Survey was submitted in September to a joint meeting of the Housing and Public Health Committees.

Necessary repairs were caused to be made to a further 15 cottages. An undertaking to close was accepted in the case of one cottage.

INSPECTIONS.

A total of 385 visits and inspections was made during the year to houses, factories, food premises, farms and in connection with water supplies, drainage, camping sites and infectious disease.

Complaints received of nuisances in 17 cases were attended to without formal action.

No Statutory Notices were served during 1950, although authority was given in two cases should it have been necessary. All "Preliminary Notices" were complied with.

SECTION "E".

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT.

Slaughtering of animals, except for casualties and private pig killing, is carried out at the Wolverhampton Corporation Abattoir, from which centre meat is distributed to the Borough of Bridgnorth and the Rural District.

FOODSTUFFS INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED DURING 1950.

Jellied Veal, 24lbs.

Picnic Ham, 8lbs.

Danish Pork, 8lbs.

Danish Pork Luncheon Meat, 12ozs.

Polish Pork Brawn, 5lbs. 7ozs.

Stewed Steak, 1lb.

Frozen Hake, 112lbs.

Total of canned meat products—47lbs. 3ozs.

SECTION "F".

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The notified cases of Infectious Disease during the year were below average, except for Scarlet Fever, although the increase in this disease was in the non-civilian group.

No case of Diphtheria was notified.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED IN 1950.

				Cases Notified		Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
				Total	Non-Civ.		
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	106	92	101	—
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	73	—	—	—
Measles	....	....	....	55	7	1	—
Pneumonia	....	....	....	18	9	7	2
Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	1	—	—	—
Acute Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	1	—	1	—
Infectious Hepatitis	....	....	....	2	2	—	—
Chicken-pox	....	....	....	7	7	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

There was an increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis of the respiratory system notified during the year.

The number of deaths recorded (two) was the lowest for some years.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950.

			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
Age Groups			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	....	....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	....	....	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
15	....	....	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	....	....	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
35	....	....	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	....	....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	....	....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals			11	3	1	2	2	—	—	—

I have much pleasure in acknowledging my indebtedness to Mr. Yelland and Mr. Ingham for their help in compiling this report. (Sections "C", "D" and "E".)

